IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An electrically driven power steering apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a ball screw shaft extending within said housing and connected to a steering mechanism;

an input shaft to which a steering force is inputted;

an output shaft for receiving the steering force from said input shaft and outputting the steering force to said ball screw shaft;

a torque sensor for detecting a torque transferred between said input shaft and said output shaft;

a motor including a rotor; and

a ball screw nut for giving a force in an axial direction to said ball screw shaft by receiving a rotational force from said motor,

wherein said ball screw shaft is supported by the nut only, and

wherein ~~an~~ a deformable elastic member ~~deforming and thus~~ capable of absorbing an impact inputted from the side of said ball screw shaft, is disposed on a power transmission route between said ball screw shaft and said rotor of said motor, and

wherein said ball screw nut is displaced only in a rotational direction, in accordance with the elastic deformation of said elastic member.

2. (Original) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is disposed between said ball screw nut and said rotor of said motor, and

the impact inputted from the side of said ball screw shaft is absorbed by a torsional damper effect.

3. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 2, wherein a displacement limiter for limiting a predetermined or larger quantity of deformation of said elastic member is provided and constructed of a recessed portion formed in one of said rotor of said motor and said ball screw nut and a protruded portion formed on the other, and

said protruded portion, when said elastic member deforms by the predetermined quantity, engages with said recessed portion.

4. - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is attached to a core metal.

15. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is formed from a rubber or a resin.

16. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is provided with at least a flange portion and a protrusion.

17. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is provided with engaging portions alternatively extending axially.

18. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a diameter of said elastic member is less than a diameter of the nut.

19. (Previously Presented) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a member transmitting a torque through said elastic member extends along the axial direction of the nut.

20. (New) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said torque sensor detects a torsion of said torsion bar connecting between the input shaft and the output shaft.

21. (New) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said elastic member is provided at only one side of the ball screw nut.

22. (New) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ball screw nut is directly supported by said housing.

23. (New) An electrically driven power steering apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ball screw nut and said rotor are supported by at least one bearing.